



Last Night a DJ Saved My Life: The History of the Disc Jockey

By Bill Brewster

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Last Night a DJ Saved My Life was the first comprehensive history of the disc jockey, a figure who has become a powerful force shaping the music industry—and since its original publication, the book has become a cult classic. Now, with five new chapters and over a hundred pages of additional material, this updated and revised edition of *Last Night a DJ Saved My Life* reasserts itself as the definitive account of DJ culture, from the first record played over airwaves to house, hip hop, techno, and beyond.

From the early development of recorded and transmitted sound, DJs have been shaping the way we listen to music and the record industry. Bill Brewster and Frank Broughton have tracked down the inside story on some of music's most memorable moments. Focusing on the club DJ, the book gets first-hand accounts of the births of disco, hip hop, house, and techno. Visiting legendary clubs like the Peppermint Lounge, Cheetah, the Loft, Sound Factory, and Ministry of Sound, and with interviews with legendary DJs, *Last Night a DJ Saved My Life* is a lively and entertaining account of musical history and some of the most legendary parties of the century.

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Last Night a DJ Saved My Life: The History of the Disc Jockey By Bill Brewster

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Last Night a DJ Saved My Life: The History of the Disc Jockey By Bill Brewster Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Beginning with the contention that the disc jockey is "dance music's most important figure," Brewster and Broughton persuasively argue that the contemporary DJ is the epitome of the postmodern artist and that disc jockeys have long influenced the evolution of American musical tastes. Brewster and Broughton's ardent history is one of barriers and sonic booms, spanning almost 100 years, including nods to pioneers Christopher Stone, Martin Block, Douglas "Jocko" Henderson, Bob "Wolfman Jack" Smith and Alan "Moondog" Freed. Along the lines of Kurt B. Reighley's recent *Looking for the Perfect Beat: The Art and Culture of the DJ*, this is an obsessively unabridged and ever-unraveling (the authors will offer updates at www.djhistory.com) chronology of DJs and the musicAnorthern soul, reggae, disco, hip-hop, garage, house and technoAthey have fostered, and, more accurately perhaps, the music that has fostered them. So as not to miss a note, the authors, both former editors at *Mixmag USA* and contributing writers to *The Face*, interviewed more than 100 DJs, dancers and scenesters and elicited some vibrant, pull-quote anecdotes, especially in the hip-hop chapters. What comes to light makes sense: readers learn that the DJ is a distinctly American invention (Reginald A. Fessenden in 1906), but they came into their own, and into wealth and fame, in Britain (case in point: Paul Oakenfold). Brewster and Broughton's subtext is refreshing: rather than draw curt lines between American and British contributions, they show how intimate the countries were in forging a communications phenomenon. (Aug.)

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From the Inside Flap

The DJ has been at the center of music history for the last forty years--from the first time a record was played over the airwaves, through reggae and Northern Soul, the births of disco, hip hop, house, and techno, to the current global underground. The club economy now brings in billions and superstar DJs like Paul Oakenfold and Fatboy Slim are overtaking rock stars in popularity and earning power. *Last Night a DJ Saved My Life* is the first comprehensive history of the disc jockey, a figure who has revolutionized the way music is conceived, created, and consumed. Drawing on in-depth interviews with the world's most important DJs and the revelers at some of the century's most legendary parties, this book is nothing less than the life story of dance music.

"Brewster and Broughton...have written a lively and--to anyone with a more than casual interest in the history of popular music in the latter half of the 20th century--necessary volume."--The New York Times Book Review

"A riveting look at record spinning from its beginnings to the present day, the authors show that the history and art of deejaying makes for a grander and more fascinating story than one would think..... The book is intricately detailed and informative, filled with grand themes and historical anecdotes, all leavened with a wiseass humor that keeps the whole thing from getting too pretentious."--Time Out

"What makes [*Last Night a DJ Saved My Life*] so good, besides the crisp, lucid writing, is that it also gives a fascinating, episodic history of the jive-talking radio DJs and Parisian discos that established the themes that would play out in hip-hop, disco and rave culture."--Salon

"These British music-mag writers deliver the goods with humor and a basic sense of good storytelling."--Vibe

"Brewster and Broughton exhibit considerable skill in rendering the meta-story seamless, subtly turning what is essentially an oral history, culled from original interviews and other published sources, into an orchestral piece."--Hartford Courant

"Very informative...takes you way back into the 'true roots' of dance music and hip hop's culture, then smoothly brings you into the future."--Danny Tenaglia

"This is for anyone who has ever found themselves lost on the dancefloor."--The Face

"Exhaustive yet entertaining...a definitive history of the disc jockey.... The book lovingly captures a host of compelling stories from every seminal DJ across the last century.... Energy jumps from the book's pages."--iD

"From counterculture to mainstream leisure, the DJ has always been at the heart of clubland.... An illuminating, thoughtful, and insightful tome."--Muzik

Excerpts Last Night a DJ Saved My Life:

"Today (no offense to priests and ministers, who try their best), it is the DJ who presides at our festivals of transcendence. Like this witchdoctor, we know he's just a normal guy really--I mean, look at him--but when he wipes away our everyday lives with holy drums and sanctified basslines, we are quite prepared to think of him as a god, or at the very least a sacred intermediary, the man who can get the great one to return our calls.

"In a good club, and even in most bad ones, the dancers are celebrating their youth, their energy, their sexuality. They are worshipping life through dance and music. Some worship with the heightened levels of perception that drugs bring; but most are carried away merely by the music and the people around them. The DJ is the key to all this. By playing records in the right way the average DJ has a tremendous power to affect people's states of mind. A truly great DJ, just for a moment, can make a whole room fall in love. Because, you see, DJing is not just about choosing a few tunes. It's about generating shared moods; it's about understanding the feelings of a group of people and directing them to a better place. In the hands of a master, records become the tools for rituals of spiritual communion that for many people are the most powerful events in their lives."

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About the Author

Bill Brewster:

Bill Brewster has been editor of *Mixmag's Update USA*. His writing appears regularly in *Mixmag*, *The Face*, *Time Out*, *The Big Issue*, and *The Guardian*. He currently lives in London.

Frank Broughton:

Frank Broughton has been deputy editor of *Mixmag's Update USA* and *iD*, and also writes for *Details*, *Rolling Stone*, *The Face*, *NME*, *Hip Hop Connection*, and *Time Out New York*, where he was founding clubs editor. He currently lives in London.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Steven Tran:

Book is to be different for every grade. Book for children until adult are different content. To be sure that book is very important for all of us. The book *Last Night a DJ Saved My Life: The History of the Disc Jockey* seemed to be making you to know about other expertise and of course you can take more information. It is rather advantages for you. The publication *Last Night a DJ Saved My Life: The History of the Disc Jockey* is not only giving you considerably more new information but also being your friend when you sense bored. You can spend your own personal spend time to read your reserve. Try to make relationship with all the book *Last Night a DJ Saved My Life: The History of the Disc Jockey*. You never experience lose out for everything in the event you read some books.

Lisa Knight:

Reading a book tends to be new life style within this era globalization. With examining you can get a lot of information that could give you benefit in your life. With book everyone in this world could share their idea. Textbooks can also inspire a lot of people. Lots of author can inspire all their reader with their story or perhaps their experience. Not only the storyline that share in the guides. But also they write about the information about something that you need illustration. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your sons or daughters, there are many kinds of book that exist now. The authors on this planet always try to improve their expertise in writing, they also doing some investigation before they write to the book. One of them is this *Last Night a DJ Saved My Life: The History of the Disc Jockey*.

Karen Strange:

As we know that book is significant thing to add our expertise for everything. By a publication we can know everything we really wish for. A book is a group of written, printed, illustrated as well as blank sheet. Every year ended up being exactly added. This guide *Last Night a DJ Saved My Life: The History of the Disc Jockey* was filled regarding science. Spend your free time to add your knowledge about your technology competence. Some people has several feel when they reading a new book. If you know how big good thing about a book, you can truly feel enjoy to read a reserve. In the modern era like at this point, many ways to get book you wanted.

Kathy Davis:

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